

REMARKS

Claims 9-11 and 22-27 are pending in the application. Claims 9-11, 22, and 25-27 have been amended hereby. Claims 12-18 and 28-34 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 9-11, 22, and 25-27 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of Claims 9 and 22-27.

Claims 22 and 25-27 have been amended as requested in the Office Action in paragraph 6. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objections to the claims is requested.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of Claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §101, as being directed to non-statutory subject matter; and under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph.

Claim 10 has been amended in part to recite that the method is performed by a computer, and that the method steps are performed by the computer.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended Claim 10 is in full compliance with all requirements of 35 U.S.C. §§101 and 112.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of Claims 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,650,776 ("Ihara") in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0182930 ("Nojiri").

Claims 10 and 11 have been amended to recite subject matter indicated as allowable in the Office Action in paragraph 12.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 10 and 11 are in condition of allowance.

Accordingly, all pending claims in the application are in condition of allowance.

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth above, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

An early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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